M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES LIBRARY
APR 2 1956

Volume 38 Berkeley, California, April, 1956 Number 4

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-SHORE SANCTUARY

By T. Eric Reynolds

Conservation Chairman, Golden Gate Audubon Society

For several years many individuals and various conservation-minded organizations have been working on the idea of setting aside one or more areas of the San Francisco Bay shore so as to preserve an adequate sample of what still remains of the natural plant and animal associations. Merely having ths littoral biotic association would be valuable enough by itself, but it is particularly important that the migrating and wintering wading birds have some feeding grounds suitable to their needs. South of Puget Sound on the Pacific Coast of North America such salt water marsh is scarce. Due to the rapid growth of population the world over, and particularly in California, where the "doubling in eighty-five years" formula is greatly speeded up, usage by man for housing and industrial purposes is proceeding at a very fast pace. In recent months it appears that not only such areas as Alameda and Bay Farm Island are being dredged and filled, but the very important Richardson's Bay environment in Marin County is about to receive the same treatment.

Thus far most of the efforts of individuals and groups have come to naught, not because of lack of energy or zeal, but due to human population pressure for commercial usage, plus apathy on the part of the citizens who are uninformed of the need. During the last year arrangements have been made with the Leslie Salt Company and the Ideal Cement Company to lease approximately a thousand acres of salt marsh land as a sanctuary. About half of this marsh is in San Mateo County (Greco Island) and the rest is in Alameda County, west and east from the mouth of Newark Slough. The leases were generously provided by the two companies involved for one dollar a year on a twenty-tive year basis. The lessees of this agreement are the Sierra Club, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Sequoia Audubon Society, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the National Audubon Society. The area will be posted as a sanctuary and warden service, plus the use of a National Audubon Society boat, will be provided during the hunting season.

The shore line involved has extensive mud flats, exposed at low tide, as feeding grounds for waders. It has broad fringes of natural plant cover, largely Salt-marsh Grass (*Spartina*) and Pickleweed (*Salicornia*), suitable for loafing for waders at high tide and as cover and nesting grounds for rails and some of the passerine species that require this type of environment. It is backed up by canals and salt-evaporating ponds in various stages of saline concentration, also providing an area favorable to some of the waders and to ducks. Herons, Marsh Hawks, and Short-eared Owls make use of the area.

Needless to say, the agreement is subject to cancellation by all parties to it. In answer to the very understandable criticism that this leasing, posting, and patrolling does not particularly change the long-range status of the birds from the present situation, one can only say that experience with similar projects, notably in Florida and on the Gulf Coast in Texas, has shown that such humble beginnings often lead to arousing sufficient interest so that more permanent measures follow as a consequence. This is fervently to be hoped for here, as there are only a few areas still remaining on the Bay where foresight and action on the part of this generation may dedicate a legacy of cultural and esthetic values for the enjoyment of forthcoming generations.

On May 6, it is planned that there will be a field expedition to the eastern shore portion of this sanctuary (and possibly Greco Island at the same time), mainly for the

purpose of putting up signs. This occasion is to be a picnic as well as a field day, and it is hoped that there will be a generous response on the part of volunteer workers — any and all volunteers, but especially those who are fleet of foot and strong of arm. Anyone who can thus help place in operation the first wildlife sanctuary for which the Golden Gate Audubon Society is, in part, directly responsible, please call Andover 1-7121 for instructions. Volunteer workers will, of course, be introduced to the sanctuary and its residents *first-hand* on May 6.

FEBRUARY TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO ZOO AND LAKE MERCED

On Saturday, February 25, eighteen members and guests met at Fleishhacker Playground and Zoo in San Francisco at 9:00. It was a rainy, windy day which caused us to disband earlier (12:00) than had been planned. However, although it was a poor day for birders, it was a good day for certain birds. Since the zoo gate was opened early, we proceeded to the ponds and about the large animal grottoes in the zoo grounds, where the common species of gulls in their several different plumages were studied. After a brief lesson, those participating soon learned to tell yearlings from 2-year-olds from 3-year-olds from adults. Then the group proceeded by car caravan around Lake Merced, where a good variety of water birds was found. Near the boat house a Green Heron flew around the point near us, and two Myrtle Warblers were heard (and one seen) in the pines. Proceeding to the beach west of the zoo, we found the wind and waves so strong that very few birds were about. The following 46 species were identified at these 3 localities:

Red-throated Loon 2, Horned Grebe 2, Eared Grebe 15, Western Grebe 5, Pied-billed Grebe 20, Green Heron 1, Mallard 40, Am. Widgeon 30, Lesser Scaup 4, White-winged Scoter 14 (on Lake Merced!), Surf Scoter 2, Ruddy Duck 50, Sparrow Hawk 2, California Quail 3, Am. Coot 6, Snowy Plover 5, Killdeer 1, Sanderling 8, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull (many of each), Ring-billed Gull 2, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Allen's Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 1, Black Phoebe 4, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 4, Winter Wren 2, Long-billed Marsh Wren 1, Am. Robin 4, Hermit Thrush 3, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Myrtle Warbler 2, Audubon's Warbler (several), Yellow-throat 1, House Sparrow, *Tri-colored Blackbird* (male, seen among flock of Brewer's Blackbirds on Sloat Blvd. west of zoo by Lee Stallcup and party), Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Oregon Junco 20, White-crowned Sparrow (many), Golden-crowned Sparrow 10, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 4.

— CHARLES HINES, JR., *Leader and Historian.*

MARCH TRIP TO MOSS LANDING AND SANTA CRUZ

Twenty-eight members and friends enjoyed a beautiful sunny, but windy, day on March 11 in the area about the outer part of Elkhorn Slough at Moss Landing, Monterey County. After lunch many of the group drove, in 5 cars, to Santa Cruz, where the 2 **Emperor Geese** that have been there since January were seen. The following 90 species of birds were seen on the whole trip, those marked * being observed only in the Santa Cruz area: Common Loon, Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret*, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Brant, **Emperor Goose***, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, Oldsquaw (? — in flight, Chas. Hines, Jr.), White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk,

Am. Coot, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Black Turnstone*, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Curlew, Wandering Tattler*, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am. Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Short-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker*, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Common Bushtit, Myrtle Warbler, Audubons Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee*, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— CARLYLE SATHER, *Leader and Historian.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In order to clarify the status of the executive officers of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., as members of the board of directors and to provide a mechanism whereby some continuity of membership on the board is assured, an *Amendment to the By-Laws* will be peresented for action by the members present at the regular meeting of the Society, April 12, 1956. The portion which it is proposed be amended (Article III, Section 1) now reads as follows: "The government of the society shall be entrusted to nine of its full members in good standing to be known as the Board of Directors. One of its members shall be the President, ex-officio. Five members shall consitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board." The proposed amendment would alter the second sentence to read as follows: "Six of these members shall be the executive officers of the society, namely the president, the two vice-presidents, the secretary, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer; and the remaining three shall be elected for terms of three years, one of the three each year."

In their meeting of February 23, 1956, the Board of Directors also approved the following motions involving *amendments to the By-Laws,* which will also be presented for action by members at the April 12 meeting: 1) that Article I, Section 3 b, be amended to read as follows (proposed new portion italicized): "Dues for membership locally (Local Membership) in the Golden Gate Society only shall be payable to the Treasurer of the Golden Gate Society at the rate of $ 1.50 *annually. Effective July 1, 1956, no new applications for Local Memberships will be accepted, but those holding such memberships prior to that date may renew them annually for as long as they wish.* The Gull may be sent to institutions and to non-residents of the Bay Area for $ 1.00 payable to the Treasurer of Golden Gate Society." 2) that the second sentence in Article I, section 8, be deleted [It now reads: "Applicants for membership in the Golden Gate Society locally without National affiliation shall be elected by the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Society"].

The subject of cancelling two meetings of the Society during the summer (July and August), as many other Societies do, has been discussed at two meetings of the Board, which was unable to agree upon the proposal. Because there are so many aspects to be considered and because the membership as a whole is directly affected, the question will be put to the members present at the April and May meetings, for discussion and possible action.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring a Bird-Sketching Contest for members of Audubon Junior Clubs in the Bay Area. Announcements and rules were mailed to the leader of every club in the area served by the society, and 5 winners will be chosen in each of two age ranges (7 - 10 and 11 - 14) representing the following 5 areas: San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Marin County, all other East Bay communities. The FINALS for the ten winners will be held during National Audubon Week on Saturday, April 28, 1956, at 10:00 a.m. at the Camp Fire Girls Headquarters, 325 Arguello Boulevard, San Francisco. Each of the ten finalists will draw (free-hand) his final sketch in crayon or pastel and including a suggestion of the bird's habitat, within a 15-minute time limit. Recognized artists in the Bay Area will be asked to select the final winner in each age range. Appropriate prizes will be presented to winners and to leaders of their clubs. Members and friends of the society are urged to attend the finals on April 28.

Also, during AUDUBON WEEK (Apr. 22 - 28) do not miss the new Richfield TV show "Mayor of the Town" on KGO, Channel 7, at 10:00 p.m., April 26 (Audubon's birthday). The program will include a greeting to the Audubon Society and additional publicity saluting Audubon Week and the conservation work of the Audubon program.

Send in your reservation *now* for the 1956-57 SCREEN TOURS SERIES, five of the nation's top lecturers with color motion pictures of nature and conservation subjects, to be held in Berkeley beginning in October. Season tickets at $3.50 each may be ordered now (application blank enclosed with this issue of the Gull to East Bay addresses). Checks should be made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., and mailed to "Audubon Screen Tours," P. O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. Mrs. David Snyder is Screen Tours chairman.

There will be a REUNION AT THE RICHELIEU (Hotel Richelieu, Van Ness and Geary, San Francisco) for all Audubon campers and their friends and relations, 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 20. There will be dessert and coffee and various entertainment provided, a camper from each year of operation of the Audubon Camp of California (1948 through 1955) will describe his or her "Most Vivid Memory" of the Camp, and there will be a short color film showing by Laurel Reynolds and a drawing for a door prize which will be a $50.00 scholarship to the 1956 season at the California camp. Your friends who are thinking of Audubon Camp in 195? are welcome too!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our society: from Berkeley, Mr. D. A. MacFarlane, Mr. Milton Schenkofsky, and Mr. George Zaine, Jr.; from Oakland, Mrs. Lee Stallcup; from Alameda, Mr. Lawrence Holmes; from Fairfax, Mr. Karl Tober; from San Lorenzo, Mr. Marvin L. Vanous; from San Francisco, Mrs. Brooke Clyde.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*

SPECIAL OFFSHORE BOAT TRIP FOR OCEANIC BIRDS

The 50-foot "Privateer" has been tentatively reserved for a trip from Berkeley and San Francisco (Fisherman's Wharf) to the S.E. Farallon Island, and for observation of shearwaters, alcids, and (we hope) albatrosses enroute,

on Sunday, May 27, 5:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Those wishing to participate should send their name, address, phone number and $7 fare (check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) to Howard L. Cogswell, Box 486, Mills College, Oakland 13, Calif. Names of paid applicants will be placed on a passenger list in the order received. A minimum of 12 paid by May 1 is necessary in order to contract for the boat, and the maximum is 24 passengers. After contracting for the boat, refunds of fare can be made only if the trip is cancelled because of severe weather (small craft warnings out) or by replacements from any waiting list of applicants. The boat has a 2-way radio, and experienced skipper who has taken us on previous trips. No landing is possible on the island but nesting Cormorants, Gulls, Guillemots, and probably Cassin's Auklets and Tufted Puffins can be seen from the boat alongside. There can be no guarantee of smooth water, but modern seasickness preventatives work well for most people. Complete information will be mailed to enrolled passengers.

OBSERVATIONS

Snowy Egret, 27 (maximum of winter) at Bay Farm Island on Jan. 4 (H. L. Cogswell); American Merganser, 5 (1 in adult male plumage), St. Mary's College, March 5 - 7 (A. S. Campbell); Clapper Rail, 1 at Lake Merced, Feb. 26 (Chas. Hines); Ringed Plover, 45 in one flock, Bay Farm Island, March 16 (HLC); Allen's Hummingbird, first male at Mills College, Feb. 8 (HLC), but not noted at St. Mary's until March 4, when abundant there (ASC); Lewis' Woodpecker, 1, Arroyo Mocho, Feb. 26 (Lee Stallcup, HLC); Com. Starling, flock of about 150, Arroyo Mocho, Feb. 26 (LS, HLC); Warbling Vireo, 5 or 6 on March 4, and Bell's Vireo, 2 or 3 on March 7, both at St. Mary's College (ASC) [Both exceptionally early dates, and the latter a rare bird at any time in this area. — ED.]

EDITOR'S CORNER

Deadline for copy reaching the Editor's desk for any issue of the Gull will be the 15th of the month preceding. **Recent scientific literature** of interest to the amateur ornithologist: Mewaldt, "Nesting Behavior of the Clark Nutcracker", Condor, 58(1), Jan.-Feb., 1956; Johnston, "Population Structure in Salt Marsh Song Sparrows. Part I. Environment and Annual Cycle," Condor, same issue (studied on San Pablo marsh); Zimmerman, "Notes on Field Identification and Comparative Behavior of Shrikes in Winter", Wilson Bulletin, 67(3), Sep. 1955 (which should make us more alert for the possible Gray Shrike on mid-winter field trips); Frings and others, "Auditory and Visual Mechanisms in Food-finding Behavior of the Herring Gull," Wilson Bulletin, 67(3); Peterson, "The Breeding Cycle in the Bank Swallow", Wilson Bul., 67(4), Dec. 1955 (an extensive study); Nero, "A Behavior Study of the Red-winged Blackbird. Part I. Mating and Nesting Activities," Wilson Bul., 68(1), March 1956 (an extensive study, with various displays described and illustrated); Van Tyne, "What Constitute Scientific Data for the Study of Bird Distribution?," Wilson Bul., 68(1) (*re* the evaluation and acceptability of sight records); Pastore, "Learning in the Canary," Scientific American, June 1955 (experiments that show that canaries are more intelligent than many people have thought birds could be).

APRIL MEETING

The 463rd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the Assembly Room (3rd floor) of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin and McAllister Streets, no. 5 bus). See announcements on page 15 of proposed Amendments to the By-Laws to be acted upon at this meeting. The program will be devoted to the life and times of John James Audubon, whose birth date was April 26, 1785. For this occasion we are privileged to have the colored moiotn picture, "Audubon's America," produced by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and loaned to us by their Executive Director, Mr. C. Russell Mason. This will be the first presentation in the West of this exceptionally fine film which has been shown throughout eastern United States and in Europe. Also, through the courtesy of Mr. Kenneth K. Bechtel of San Francisco there will be an exhibition during the meeting of original prints from the elephant folio edition of Audubon's "Birds of America," and Miss Louise Ballard, former curator at Los Angeles County Museum, will comment on the artistic significance of Audubon. — LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman.*

Before the meeting — a no-host dinner at 6 p.m. at the Rathskeller, an old German restaurant (prices $1.65 up) at 602 Turk St. at Polk, just 3 blocks from the library. — BONNIE SMITH, *Social Chairman.*

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

On Saturday, April 21, to **Bay Farm Island** and adjacent shores and mud flats. This is usually the best time of year to see north-bound shorebird migrants, many in their spring finery. Meet at Lincoln Park, at High Street and Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, at 9:30 a.m. Leader, Harry Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT. 3-2164.

On Sunday, April 29, to **McCoy Ranch** and **Arroyo Mocho Road** at the north base of Mt. Hamilton. This trip is usually excellent for wild flower displays as well as many colorful species of nesting and migrant birds. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in the town of Livermore one block south of the flagpole, on S. Livermore Avenue. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO. 8-7534. — LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman.*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

President	Mrs. George C. Browne	2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6, TW 3-5469
Vice President	Dr. T. Eric Reynolds	140 Estates Dr., Piedmont 11, AN 1-7121
Vice President	Mrs. Budd J. Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 16, OV 1-7635
Treasurer	Harold G. Peterson	3548 65th Av., Oakland 5, LO 8-7534
Rec. Secretary	Mrs. Roberta J. Long	45 Clarendon Ave., San Fransisco 14, LO 4-7767
Cor. Secretary	Mrs. Hermine H. VanGelder	2409 Bowditch St., Berkeley 4, AS 3-9740
Director	Arthur J. Bennett	836 Mills Ave., San Bruno, JU 8-6702
Director	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10, GL 1-6267
Director and Editor	Howard L. Cogswell	Box 486, Mills College, Oakland 13, TR 3-6419
Distribution Chairman	Miss Alice Leet	1050 Spruce St., Berkeley 7, LA 4-2488
Membership Chairman	Dr. Jean L. Dunham	4607 Harbord Dr., Oakland 18, HU 3-1591

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4 — TH. 8-4042